

REMARKS

Claims 1, 6, 8, 9, and 15 have been amended. Claim 5 has been canceled. Therefore, claims 1-4 and 6-20 are pending in the case. Further examination and reconsideration of pending claims 1-4 and 6-20 are hereby respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 17-20 were allowed. Claim 5 was objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but was deemed allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. To expedite prosecution, the allowable subject matter of claim 5 has been incorporated into independent claims 1 and 15. Applicants sincerely appreciate the Examiner's recognition of allowable subject matter and await allowance of the remaining claims in the case.

Section 102 and 103 Rejections

Claims 1-4, 8-10, 12, 13, 15, and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,020,957 to Rosengaus et al. (hereinafter "Rosengaus"). Claims 6, 7, and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rosengaus. Claims 1, 2, and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,608,676 to Zhao et al.

As noted above, independent claims 1 and 15 have been amended to include the allowed subject matter from claim 5. Accordingly, Applicants believe claims 1 and 15, as well as claims dependent therefrom, are in condition for allowance. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request removal of this rejection.

CONCLUSION

This response constitutes a complete response to all issues raised in the Office Action mailed January 17, 2006. In light of amendments herein, Applicants assert that pending claims 1-4 and 6-20 are in condition for allowance. If the Examiner has any questions, comments, or suggestions, the undersigned earnestly requests a telephone conference.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment, to deposit account number 50-3268/5589-06100.

Respectfully submitted,
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